

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05498 060839Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 SAM-01 /170 W

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R 060810Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6734

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS TUNIS

REF: TUNIS 4718

1. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TURAN GUNES VISITED TUNIS SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, MAKING STATEMENTS TO PRESS, CONFERRING WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, AND CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI (WHO CUT SHORT A VISIT TO LIBYA TO SEE BOURGUIBA BEFORE GUNES) REGARDING CYPRUS SITUATION.

2. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS GUNES DECLARED THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS SITUATION ON CYPRUS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH TUNISIAN LEADERS. HE ASSERTED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD ENDURED GROWING "GENOCIDE" OVER LAST DECADE AND THAT, WHILE CERTAIN COUNTRIES CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH SITUATION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS, IT IS NORMAL TO PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF THE ISSUE TO TUNISIA, A
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 05498 060839Z

COUNTRY WITH THE SAME CULTURAL TRADITION AS TURKEY.

HE SAID THAT TURKEY IS READY TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES AT GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT BEING RIGID, ESPECIALLY "THE DEMARCATION LINE." REGARDING TURKEY'S PREFERRED SOLUTION TO CYPRUS ISSUE, GUNES STATED THAT " FROM THE MOMENT THE TWO COMMUNITIES CAN NO LONGER LIVE TOGETHER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ADOPT A CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE WHICH PERMITS EACH COMMUNITY AN AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION WITH A GEOGRAPHIC BASE." HE ADDED THAT THE ISLAND SHOULD REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT STATE WITH ITS SOVEREIGNTY SAFE-GUARDED.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF GUNES' MEETING WITH BOURGUIBA AND CALL ON CHATTI GAVE NO DETAILS OF DISCUSSION. AFTER MEETINGS GUNES TOLD PRESS THAT HE SAW NO SIGN THAT ISSUE WILL SOON BE RESOLVED AND THAT TURKISH AND TUNISIAN LEADERS ARE CONVINCED OF NECESSITY TO RESOLVE CRISIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: GUNES VISIT FOLLOWS BY ONE MONTH REPORTED TUNISIAN DEMARCHE TO TURKEY ON CYPRUS ISSUE SEE REFTEL) AND, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH VISIT HERE LAST WEEK OF SPECIAL TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE GUNVER SEMIH, INDICATES THAT TURKEY IS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO BRING TUNIS BACK TO FULLER SUPPORT OF ITS OBJECTIVES IN CYPRUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS05498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740247-0731
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740966/aaaacefc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 4718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS TUNIS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TS, TU, CY, GR, (GUNES, TURAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005